

REMARKS

After the above amendments, claims 1, 4-18, and 22-23 are pending. Claims 1 and 11 are independent.

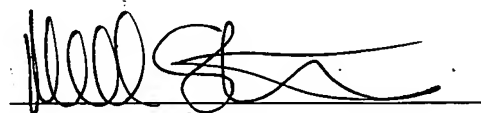
In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 3-5, 7-9, 21, and 22 contain allowable subject matter. Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claim 3 and the intervening claims, and amended independent claim 11 to incorporate the limitations of claim 21 and the intervening claims. Accordingly, these claims are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, it is believed that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments which may be incurred in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 18-2220.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 17, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael E. Stimson", written over a horizontal line.

Michael E. Stimson
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